



Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009

January 26, 2012

Nashville, TN



Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009



Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, enacted in October 2009.

Evidence presented at trial established that in the early morning hours of June 20, 2010, Maybee and Popejoy targeted five Hispanic men who had pulled into a gas station parking lot.

Though Maybee and Popejoy did not know the men and the five did not do or say anything to provoke them, Maybee and Popejoy yelled racial epithets at the men and told them to "go back to Mexico."

When the victims drove away, the co-conspirators pursued them in Maybee's truck.

When Maybee and Popejoy caught up to the victims, Popejoy leaned outside of the front passenger window and waived a tire wrench at the victims, and continued to threaten and hurl racial epithets at the victims.

Maybee, driving his truck, rammed into the victims' car repeatedly, causing the victims' car to cross the opposite lane of traffic, go off the road, crash into a tree and ignite. The victims were badly injured and one of the victims sustained life threatening injuries.

Popejoy - pleaded guilty on May 16, 2011, to 1 count of committing a federal hate crime and one count of conspiring to commit a federal hate crime.

- (1) Testified against Maybee
- (2) Sentenced to 4 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release
- (3) Ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine

Maybee - convicted on May 19, 2011, by a federal jury of 5 counts of committing a federal hate crime and 1 count of conspiring to commit a federal hate crime.

- (1) Sentenced to 11 years and 3 months in prison
- (2) Followed by 3 years of supervised release
- (3) Ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

Maybee and Popejoy were also sentenced to pay \$5,440 in restitution to the victims.



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James Byrd, Jr.



Supremacist dies for Texas dragging

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — White supremacist gang member Lawrence Brewer was executed Wednesday evening for the infamous dragging death of James Byrd Jr., a black man from East Texas.

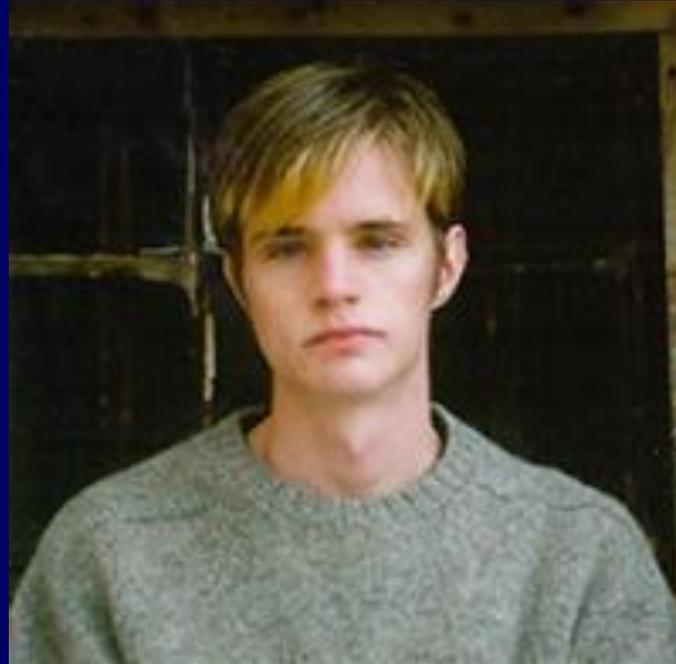
Byrd, 49, was chained to the back of a pickup and pulled whiplike to his death along a bumpy asphalt road in one of the most grisly hate crime murders in recent Texas history.

Brewer, 44, was asked if he had any final words: "No. I have no final statement." Brewer's parents and two of Byrd's sisters were in attendance.

Appeals to the courts for Brewer were exhausted and no last-day attempts to save his life were filed.

Besides Brewer, John King, now 36, also was convicted of capital murder and sent to death row for Byrd's death. King's conviction and death sentence remain under appeal. A third man, Shawn Berry, 36, received a life prison term.

The Associated Press



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